

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 H-02 L-03

AID-05 CIAE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20

TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1937

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BELFAST 125

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, EINV, UK, EI

SUBJECT: ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO DISCOURAGE U.S. INVESTMENT IN
NORTHERN IRELAND

REF: BELFAST 120

1. THERE HAS BEEN A CLASHING SEQUEL TO SDLP DEPUTY LEADER JOHN HUME'S WEEKEND CRITICISM (REFTEL) OF THE ALLEGED ATTEMPT BY THE AMERICAN ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF IRISH AMERICANS (OF BUFFALO, NY) TO DISCOURAGE U.S. INVESTMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND: COUNTER-CRITICISM OF HUME BY THREE AOH MEMBERS VISITING THE NORTH, AND SUBSTANTIATION OF HUME'S STATEMENT BY THE BRITISH MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THIS SECTOR.

2. AMERICAN HIBERNIANS INTERVENE; BELFAST'S "IRISH NEWS" JULY 5 REPORTED A COUNTER STATEMENT TO HUME BY AMERICAN AOH MEMBERS BOB BATEMAN, FATHER SEAN MCMANUS, AND DR. FRED BURNS O'BRIEN. THEY REPORTEDLY ASCRIBED HUME'S STATEMENT TO THE POLITICAL MOTIVE OF UNDOING THE AOH-KILLARNEY MEETING'S "HISTORIC ACT" OF EXTENDING THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TO NORTHERN
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PROTESTANTS. THEY DENIED ANY INTENTION OF SABOTAGING U.S. INVESTMENT IN NI AND SAID THEIR CONCERN WAS THAT AMERICAN FIRMS ABIDE BY THE U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT ACT.

3. AUTHORITIES SUPPORT HUME: AT A JULY 5 MEETING IN BELFAST, MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DON CONCANNON SPOKE STRONGLY AGAINST "SCURRILOUS LITERATURE" SUCH AS A LETTER

FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF IRISH AMERICANS TO THE AVX CORPORATION OF GREAK NECK, NEW YORK, WHICH WAS CONSIDERING AN INVESTMENT IN NI. CONCANNON SAID THE COMPANY SENT THREE WIVES OVER TO LOOK AT CONDITIONS. WHEN IT RECEIVED THEIR ENTHUSIASTIC REPORT, IT DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH A 600-JOB PLANT.

4. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE LETTER QUOTED IN THE "NEWS" IS TYPICAL OF A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF SUCH LITERATURE PRODUCED BY ORGANIZATIONS UNDER A RANGE OF NAMES. THE LETTER AS QUOTED DISTORTS THE NI SCENE TO THE POINT OF MISREPRESENTATION. COPIES POUCHED TO EUR/NE AND INFO ADDRESSEES.

5. IN ITS REPORT ON THE BLAST AGAINST HUME, THE "NEWWS" ALSO WROTE THAT BATEMAN, MCMANUS AND O'BRIEN HAD COME TO NI AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS TO PREPARE A REPORT ON THE LOCAL POLITICAL SITUATION FOR THE AD HOC CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON IRISH AFFAIRS. DUBLIN'S "IRISH TIMES," WHICH IS WIDELY READ IN BELFAST STATES THAT THEY HELD "SECRET TALKS" WITH THE ILLEGAL ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE AND OTHER LOYALIST GROUPS. STOUT

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 06 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PINS, PINT, EINV, UK, EI
To: STATE
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